In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Under "*Background of the Invention*," paragraph 2, please make the following amendment:

Previous designs have mounted the shock absorber 11 in a manner which makes maintaining the shock absorber 11 difficult. As seen in Fig. 1, the shock absorber **11** has a housing **13** with a piston rod **15** extending therefrom. The housing **15** of the shock absorber **11** has threads on its outer periphery and is threaded into a threaded bore **17** of a mount **19** of an industrial machine. The threaded bore **17** has a stepped diameter which forms a shoulder **21** in the mount **19**. The shock absorber housing **13** is threaded into the bore **17** such that the end of the housing **13** abuts the shoulder **21** of the mount **19**, and the piston rod **15** extends outwardly from the housing **13**. A lock screw **23** is threaded into a threaded aperture **25** extending from the side of the mount **19** at an angle substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the shock absorber **11**. The lock screw **23** engages the outer threads of the housing **13** of the shock absorber **11** in order to retain the shock absorber **11** in a predetermined position.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Present Invention*," paragraph 6, please make the following amendment:

In order to vary the dampening force when moving toward the retracted position as opposed to moving toward the extended position, a piston head **52** is captured between the piston head retainer **46** and a shoulder **54** of the piston rod **18**. The piston head **52** is a substantially cylindrical member coaxially aligned with the longitudinal axis **20** of the housing **12**. The inner diameter of the piston head **52** is somewhat larger than the outer diameter of the piston rod **18** thereby creating a space between the piston head **52** and the piston rod **18** such that fluid or oil can flow between the piston head **52** and the piston rod **18**. The outer diameter of the piston head **52** is slightly smaller than the inside diameter of the cylinder **36** so as to provide a close slip fit tolerance between adjacent surfaces such that the migration of fluid between the cylinder [[32]] 36 and the piston head **52** is minimized, and the fluid or oil flows between the piston head **52** and the piston rod **18**.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Present Invention,*" paragraph 7, please make the following amendment:

The length of the piston head **52** is somewhat shorter than the distance between the piston head retainer **46** and the shoulder **54** of the piston rod **18**. This allows the piston head **52** to shift and abut the piston head retainer **46** when moving toward the extended position and shift and abut the shoulder **54** of the piston rod **18** when moving toward the retracted position. When the piston rod **18** is moving toward the extended position, the piston head **52** abuts the piston head retainer **46**, and fluid or oil flows through the aperture **50** of the piston head retainer **46** and between the piston head **52** and the piston rod **18**. In addition, fluid or oil is allowed to flow from the reservoir 38 through the ports **43** to the internal portion of the cylinder **36** as the piston rod **18** continues to move toward the furthest extended position. When the piston rod **18** moves toward the retracted position, the piston head **52** engages the shoulder **54** of the piston rod **18** such that fluid is allowed to flow around the piston head retainer **46** as well as through the aperture **50** provided in the piston head retainer **46**. Fluid or oil also flows through the ports **43** to the reservoir **38**. The ports **43** are continuously blocked as the piston head **52** advances toward the retracted position, thereby allowing for the continued deceleration of the piston **14** at a desired dampening force. The displaced fluid or oil from the cylinder **36** is stored in reservoir **38** until piston **14** moves toward the extended position.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Present Invention*," paragraph 8, please make the following amendment:

The piston rod **18** is biased toward the extended position by a compression spring **56**. The compression spring **56** is seated on a spring support **58** which is disposed in the rearward portion of the housing **12** within the cylinder **36**. The compression spring **56** has one end seated on the end of the spring support **58**, and another end engaging the piston head retainer [[56]] **46**. The spring support **58** has a substantially cylindrical configuration that is substantially coaxial with the longitudinal axis **20** of the housing **12**.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Present Invention*," paragraph 11, please make the following amendment:

In operation, the shock absorber **10** is seated in the fixture **16**. If the shock absorber **10** requires maintenance or service, the user or mechanic simply pulls the shock absorber **10** from the housing **12**. If the user cannot remove the shock absorber **10** from the fixture **16**, then the user may insert a tool (not shown) into a slot **74** provided in the fixture **16**. The slot **74** allows the user to insert the tool under the shoulder **68** of the housing **12** and then pry or lift the housing **12** upward until the housing **12** is lifted from the fixture **16**. Once the shock absorber **10** is removed from the fixture **16**, the user may perform whatever maintenance is necessary on the shock absorber **10**. The snap ring **37** at the end of the housing **12** allows the internal mechanisms of the shock absorber **10** to be easily removed. In addition, the aperture **44** on the end of the housing **12** provides easy access for draining and supplying fluid or oil to the internal portions of the housing **12** of the shock absorber **10**. Once the proper maintenance is performed on the shock absorber **10**, the shock absorber **10** is inserted back into the fixture **16**. The housing **12** of the shock absorber **10** is inserted downward into the fixture **16** until the shoulder [[**16**]] **68** of the housing **12** engages the shoulder **70** of the fixture **16**.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Present Invention,*" paragraph 12, please make the following amendment:

While the invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiments, but to the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications ~~on~~ or equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. The scope is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures as is performed under the law.